Defence sponsors $170m in MIT research

By Elton L. Spero

The US Department of Defence (DOD) sponsored a total of $170 million in research at MIT during fiscal year 1982, representing nearly half of the $347 million in DOD funds available from all sources, according to a report by the Office of Sponsored Research.

The amount represents an increase of over 10 percent from the total of $154 million for fiscal year 1981. The majority of the funding — 83.9 percent — went to Lincoln Laboratory, with the remainder sponsoring research programs on campus.

The Department of Defence supplied $143 million to Lincoln Laboratory — 92.3 percent of its total support of $155 million for 1982. The Air Force supplied $86 million, or 47.9 percent of the DOD funds for Lincoln Laboratory, while the Army provided $38 million, or 26.9 percent of the DOD funding.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) supplied $22 million, or 15.6 percent, and the Navy provided $13 million, or 9.5 percent. DARPA was the only agency within DOD that didn't increase its sponsorship of programs at Lincoln Laboratory, decreasing its funding by $5 million from 1981.

The total DOD sponsorship of the laboratory increased by almost nine percent, from $131 million to $143 million. MIT operates Lincoln Laboratory as a federal corporation for research for performing research and development in advanced electronics.

On-campus research programs sponsored by the Department of Defence totalled $27 million for 1982, an increase of over 19 percent from the $23 million in 1981. Contracts provided 93.7 percent of the funding, while grants supplied the remaining 6.3 percent.

The Department of Defence is the fourth largest sponsor of MIT's on-campus research. The Department of Energy funded $46 million, the National Institutes of Health contributed $30 million, and the National Science Foundation sponsored almost $30 million of research.

The Navy supplied $17 million, or 61 percent of DOD funding for campus research. The Air Force provided $15.5 million, or 19.5 percent, while the Army sponsored $3.3 million, or 12.9 percent.

Other agencies in the Department of Defence provided $1.7 million, or 6.1 percent. The School of Engineering received $15.9 million, or 57.7 percent of the total amount of money from the Defense Department. MIT's interdepartmental laboratories received $5.4 million, or 19.6 percent, and the School of Science received $4.3 million, or 15.6 percent of the money.

The School of Architecture received $1.4 million, or 5.2 percent, and the Sloan School of Management received $295,000, or 1.1 percent of the money.

The School of Humanities and Social Science, the Whittaker College of Health Science Technology and Management, and other departments and special laboratories each received less than 1 percent of the Department of Defence funding.

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